

Appln No. 10/647,076
Amdt date March 11, 2009
Reply to Office action of November 20, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating system comprising:
a water tank; and
a plant-cultivating container in the water tank, the container having a receiving portion an opening for receiving a plant, wherein at least a part of the container is formed of body; the container having, as at least a portion thereof, a selective moisture vapor permeable portion comprising a non-porous hydrophilic film comprising a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols and copolymers thereof to which substantially no hydrophobic porous film is superimposed, wherein the selective moisture vapor permeable portion prevents direct contact between the receiving portion and external water; the selective moisture vapor permeable portion not allowing water to pass therethrough, but allowing water vapor to pass therethrough, wherein water in the water tank is at a level below the opening and in contact with the non-porous hydrophilic film.
2. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating container system according to claim 1, wherein the moisture vapor permeable portion non-porous hydrophilic film has a moisture vapor-permeability of 1×10^3 g/m²·24 hours or more.
3. (Currently Amended) A plant cultivating container system according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the surface area of the non-porous hydrophilic film is 20% or more of moisture vapor permeable portion to the total outside surface area of the plant cultivating outside surface of the container on the side thereof to be in contact with water is 20% or more.

Appln No. 10/647,076

Amdt date March 11, 2009

Reply to Office action of November 20, 2007

4. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating ~~container~~ system according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the surface area of the non-porous hydrophilic film is 100% of moisture vapor-permeable portion is provided over the total surface area of the plant cultivating container.

5. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating ~~container~~ system according to claim 1, wherein ~~the selective moisture vapor permeable portion comprises a composite material comprising a material having selective moisture vapor permeability which prevents water from passing through the selective moisture vapor permeable portion, but allows water vapor to pass therethrough; and another a water-permeable material different from the non-porous hydrophilic film is laminated on the non-porous hydrophilic film.~~

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating method, comprising:
providing a plant-cultivating ~~container~~ system comprising:

a water tank containing water;

a plant cultivating container having a receiving portion an opening for receiving a plant body; the container, having as at least a portion thereof, a selective moisture vapor permeable portion comprising wherein at least a part of said plant-cultivating container is formed of a non-porous hydrophilic film comprising made of a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols and copolymers thereof to which substantially no hydrophobic film is superimposed, wherein the selective moisture vapor permeable portion prevents water from passing through the selective moisture vapor permeable portion, but allows water vapor to pass therethrough wherein the water in the water tank is at a level below the opening and in contact with the non-porous hydrophilic film; and

a plant-retaining support in the plant-cultivating container;

placing disposing a plant body in the plant-retaining support and a plant body in the plant-cultivating container; and

Appln No. 10/647,076

Amdt date March 11, 2009

Reply to Office action of November 20, 2007

allowing the water to contact the plant through the non-porous hydrophilic films, thereby cultivating the plant ~~cultivating the plant body while causing at least the selective moisture vapor permeable portion to contact water and to prevent direct contact between the plant body and external water.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating method according to claim 8, wherein the temperature of the water in the water tank is ~~contact with the moisture vapor permeable portion is temperature-controlled water~~ controlled to maintain a temperature of a rhizosphere of the plant within a range from 15 to 25°C.

10. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating method according to claim 8, wherein the water in the water tank ~~contact with the moisture vapor permeable portion~~ is water that would ~~which as such is not normally be considered~~ suitable for the growth of a plant.

11. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating method according to claim 10, wherein the water in the water tank ~~contact with the moisture vapor permeable portion~~ is selected from the group consisting of salt water, polluted water, [[or]] hard water or combinations thereof.

12. (Cancelled)